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[REDACTED]
PATTERN OF IRANIAN SHIP ATTACKS FOLLOWING THE
IRAN AJR INCIDENT [REDACTED]
20 November 1987

We believe that, with one notable exception, the pattern of Iranian ship attacks since the Iran Ajr incident on 22 September has changed little. This change, involving increased attacks on US-associated shipping, probably is more closely related to the overall US protection program than to US-Iranian clashes, such as the Iran Ajr incident. [REDACTED]

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All but two of the 16 Iranian ship attacks since late September have been conducted in the same general areas as previous attacks and have employed familiar tactics. (See attached sheet.) Moreover, the majority of the Iranian ship attacks still appear to in response to Iraqi air attacks on Iranian oil exports. Damage to most ships has been minor and oil exports from the Persian Gulf have not been affected. The danger to ships not associated with Kuwait or the United States probably is no greater now than earlier in the year. [REDACTED]

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The two Iranian attacks that were different involved the use of Chinese-built HY-2 (Silkworm) missiles against tankers near Kuwait's Mina al Ahmadi terminal in mid-October. These attacks almost certainly were direct attempts by Tehran to press Kuwait to end the US protection program and its support for Iraq. Moreover, the missile attacks probably were intended to take advantage of ambiguous areas in the US protection program and to highlight its limitations. [REDACTED]

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The only notable change in the overall pattern of Iranian ship attacks involves the increased targeting of US-owned or US-flagged tankers. Three of five tankers hit by Iran in November were owned by US companies, but were flying flags of convenience. The two ships struck by Iranian HY-2 missiles last month were also US-associated. Prior to September, only six US-owned tankers and one US-flag tanker (the Kuwaiti-owned Bridgeton) had been attacked by Iran or struck Iranian mines this year. [REDACTED]

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Iran is likely to continue to target US-associated shipping not under escort. We believe that Iranian intelligence is capable of determining which ships transiting the Persian Gulf are US-associated and that Iranian naval forces--both regular and Revolutionary Guard--are capable of identifying these ships for attack. Such attacks would help Tehran spread its line that US naval forces are ineffective and should be removed from the region. The Iranian press has emphasized the US association when these ships have been attacked, using the ships' ownership, and on one occasion the proximity of the attacked tanker to US warships, as evidence of US weakness in the Gulf. [REDACTED]

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IRANIAN SHIP ATTACKS IN THE PERSIAN GULF
29 September - 20 November 1987

Date	Ship/Type/Country	Location	Weapon Used	Damage	Total Attacks 1987
29 Sep	Koriana/tkr/Greece	2506N 5413E	Frigate/Sea Killer Missile/4.5" Gun	Minor	54
30 Sep	Western City/tkr/Liberia	2621N 5610E	Speed boats/small arms**	Minor	55
30 Sep	Nichiharu Maru/tkr/Japan	2622N 5613E	Speed boats/small arms	Minor	56
1 Oct	Johar/tkr/Pakistan	2619N 5609E	Speed boats/small arms	Unk.	57
5 Oct	Spic Emerald/tkr/India	2545N 5438E	Speed boats/small arms	Fire	58
7 Oct	Raad al Bakry B/tkr/S. Arabia	2525N 5509E	Speed boats/small arms	Unk.	59
13 Oct	Petroship B/tkr/Saudi Arabia	2526N 5512E	Speed boats/small arms	Minor	60
13 Oct	Atlantic Peace/tkr/Liberia	2522N 5458E	Frigate/4.5" Gun	Minor	61
15 Oct	Sungari/tkr/Liberia*	2905N 4817E	Silkworm	Major	62
16 Oct	Sea Isle City/tkr/US	2905N 4811E	Silkworm	Major	63
24 Oct	Prosperventure 7/tkr/Panama	2524N 5518E	Patrol boat/small arms	Minor	64
6 Nov	Grand Wisdom/tkr/Panama*	2516N 5443E	Patrol boat/small arms	Minor	65
11 Nov	Liquid Bulk Explorer/tkr/Panama	vic. 2539N 5517E	Speed boats/small arms	Fire	66
15 Nov	Lucy/tkr/Liberia*	2619N 5607E	Speed boats/small arms	Fire	67
16 Nov	Esso Freeport/tkr/Bahama*	2547N 5524E	Speed boats/small arms	Minor	68
16 Nov	Filikon L/tkr/Greece	2611N 5606E	Speed boats/small arms	Minor	69

* US-owned

** Small arms consist of rocket grenades(RPG's) and machineguns.

tkr - tanker

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Iran Ajr Incident
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DI/NESA/PG/I (20Nov87)

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